

**Tree Planting Committee**  
**Tuesday, June 4, 2019 5:15 PM**  
**Brookline Town Hall, Room 408**

**Committee Members Present:** Nadine Gerdts (Chair), Liz Erdman, Hugh Mattison

**Committee Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Tom Brady, Katie Weatherseed

**Guests Present:** See attached list.

**AGENDA REVIEW/MINUTES**

N. Gerdts called the meeting to order. N. Gerdts reviewed the agenda. The Committee reviewed the minutes from April 30, 2019.

*H. Mattison made a motion to approve the minutes. L. Erdman seconded. All in favor.*

**DISCUSSION OF TREE PLANTING REQUESTS**

- 3 Alton Place
  - H. Mattison stated that he reviewed this location and believes 2 trees could be planted at this site. T. Brady and guest Kathleen Munday discussed the potential limiting effect of plantings on light entering the apartment. H. Mattison showed a picture of the existing azaleas in front of 9 Alton Place as an example of a good planting option if trees are not appropriate for the site. Following discussion, the Committee concluded it would be best to plant 2 trees between the windows. The Committee suggested a small tree (or trees) for the site, possibly a dogwood. T. Brady stated that the first step will be to contact DigSafe and check for utilities. H. Mattison stated that he can be the point person for this location.
- 43 Clark Rd
  - H. Mattison stated that when he looked at the site, he saw a small trunk from a previous tree on the property. He is unsure if it is still there. The Committee stated that both proposed locations would be suitable for a small ornamental tree. T. Brady stated that he will contact DigSafe to check for utilities. H. Mattison stated that he will be the point person.
- 245 Russett Rd
  - H. Mattison stated that he feels a tree would be appropriate on the left corner of the front yard, under the two windows. T. Brady stated that the large oak in front of the house will be removed and will not be replaced, due to the presence of overhead wires. H. Mattison stated that a large tree would then be ideal. T. Brady commented that the species should align with the existing character of the road. He suggested H. Mattison show them the entire list of available species that the Town plants and see what trees are available after the scheduled plantings take place.
- 48 Kilsyth Road
  - L. Erdman stated that she visited this site and stated that she believes that a tree will do well on either side of the steps. She believes a small tree, such as a Kwansan Cherry, would be appropriate. The first step will be to check for utilities.
- 60 Beals Street

- The Committee looked at a photo of the site and determined that the proposed planting site looks like a good location for a tree. The applicant has requested a cherry, if possible. N. Gerdtz stated that she would follow up with the applicant after DigSafe has checked for utilities.

H. Mattison showed a picture of the ginkgo tree planted outside Clearflour Bakery to show the Committee how well the tree is doing.

J. Bednarz and K. Munday inquired about what they can do to help and would like to help publicize the Back of Sidewalk Program. They said they will also look for potential locations for additional trees. T. Brady stated that he will contact DigSafe. H. Mattison asked about the status of 21 Longwood Avenue, and T. Brady responded that he can reach out to DigSafe and check on their status.

### **DISCUSSION OF TREE TAGS**

N. Gerdtz stated that she had worked with K. Weatherseed on the tree tag. H. Mattison's daughter, who is studying graphic design, had some suggestions regarding editing. The Committee discussed whether to put the tag in people's mailboxes or to put the tag directly on the tree. T. Brady voiced his concerns that if the tag is placed on the tree, it might girdle the tree or fall off and become litter. N. Gerdtz suggested two different kinds of tags – one for the homeowners and one for the tree. L. Erdman proposed the use of recycled plastic pouches if the tags are to be hung from the tree. T. Brady suggested putting them on stakes, wherever possible. The Committee voiced interest in a "door hanger" format for the tree tags. N. Gerdtz asked for K. Weatherseed to reach out to the designer for the tag design files and see if there is a way to alter the colors slightly. N. Gerdtz stated that each one of the points made on the tag could be expanded on the website.

### **DISCUSSION OF WEBSITE LAYOUT AND CONFIGURATION**

L. Erdman said that she will send people sections of the website, which they can review and then discuss at the following meeting. The Committee discussed the format limitations of the website. The left side of the website will contain links.

### **STAFF UPDATE**

T. Brady stated that he received a request to address tree issues on Harvard Avenue, and has been working with both the Commissioner of Public Works and Peter Ditto, Director of the Engineering Division. T. Brady stated that the forestry crews have been continuing with their planting schedules.

N. Gerdtz commented that she saw some London Plane trees on Toxteth Street with tight ties on them.

N. Gerdtz mentioned the idea of creating a Google Drive folder with pictures for a potential photo archive on the website. The need for a format for labeling pictures was also discussed.

### **ADJOURN**

*L. Erdman made a motion to adjourn. H. Mattison seconded. All in favor.*

Minutes prepared by Katie Weatherseed